Reply of Government.—Will be enquired into.

SUBJECT No. 194.

Disposal of toddy trees in inam villages.

Mr. K. Krishnamurti Rao, Magadi taluk.

Summary of discussion.—In many villages there were in times past only a few toddy trees, but these have now increased in number. As the inamdars have only the right to fell the trees and are not allowed to tap them, they have to depend upon the contractors for their revenue who generally dictate their own terms. In some places the rent for a tree ranges from two annas to a rupee. In some other parts there is no demand for the inamdar's trees for years together. Government, on the other hand, have been enhancing the tree tax gradually and the result of it is loss to inamdars. It is requested at least to kindly take charge of all the trees in the inam villages and to guarantee to pay the inamdars every alternate year, not less than eight annas per tree, subject, of course, to the enhancement of the rate under special circumstances. If this is not possible, the inamdars may at least be permitted to have their own shops as promised last year.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 195.

Inamdars' rights to toddy revenue.

(*a*) Messrs. K. Krishnamurti Rao, Magadi taluk, and G. Srinivasamurti, Hassan taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) The question of inamdars' rights to toddy revenue is under consideration for a long time. If it had been known that such rules as the present ones would be brought into force, inamdars would have clearly got the necessary entries made in their title deeds. It is now seen that the inamdars are being denied the right under the rules framed from time to time to suit the occasions. If the tree tax system had been brought into force after the settlement of the question of inamdars' right to toddy revenue, they would have been shown some consideration. Unwillingness to pay the inamdars the large sums now with the Government has occasioned the introduction of different rules under the regime of different officers. It is therefore prayed that early relief may be given to inamdars.

(*b*) Mr. V. Raghavachar, Mysore taluk.

(*b*) It is learnt that the Government are contemplating to modify the existing rules regarding the toddy revenue of inam villages. Before any change is introduced, pray that the inamdars' views on *takarars* may be first heard.

Mr. B. K. Garudachar represented that the tree tax collected in the villages were not paid yet to the inamdars, even where the rights had been settled.

Mr. Karnik Nallappa of Tumkur represented that the inamdars should have a right to tree-tax on Government trees also. He said this with reference to recent orders withholding the tree-tax on such trees.

Mr. Anniah Pandit represented that the inamdars should be permitted to make jaggory from toddy drawn from their trees.

Reply of Government.—All possible concessions will be shown. The inamdars will also be consulted when the rules are revised.

SUBJECT No. 196.

Inamdars not to refund the amount advanced to them on account of excise revenue due to them.

Messrs. Amble Anniah Pandit and C. Narasimhaiya, Mysore District Board.

Withdrawn.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL BOARDS.

(*Nos. 197 to 208.*)

SUBJECT No. 197.

Reduction of the powers of patels in Unions.

Mr. Ramanuja Iyengar, Gubbi taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) Patels should not be in charge of Union cattle pounds. The present system is not convenient to the people because the patel is not able to be near the pound. Ryots are generally uneducated and they pay whatever sums they are asked to pay and are satisfied if cattle be released. They do not see whether cattle are properly fed in pounds for the reason that the patel is both the Union panchayetdar and the pound-keeper and can dominate over ryots in various other ways. The income may also considerably increase, if a separate pound-mutsaddi under the supervision of the Union members be appointed.

(2) As sweepers are *totis* who are the patels' subordinates, the sweeping work is not generally carried out in accordance with the wishes of other panchayetdars. And as patels generally hold extensive lands, their chief object is to store as much manure as possible. It is on a consideration of all such defects that in the Madras Legislative Council, it has been pressed to notice that a village headman's position as a Union member is opposed to the principles of local self-government.

(3) Again, patels make use of such *totis* for collection work also. These *totis* and *talaris* are also village servants who get *mirasis* from villagers. One anna in a rupee is unlawfully collected as being the fees for the Union officials as for instance in Kadaba. Such being the case, how can the object of the Sanitary Department be fulfilled and how can the income from cattle pounds increase? It is therefore prayed that these defects be remedied by giving more independence to the non-official members.

Under the District Board Regulation, the patel is *not* an *ex-officio* member.

The member was not able to quote any specific instances in support of his statements.

Reply of Government.—Noted.